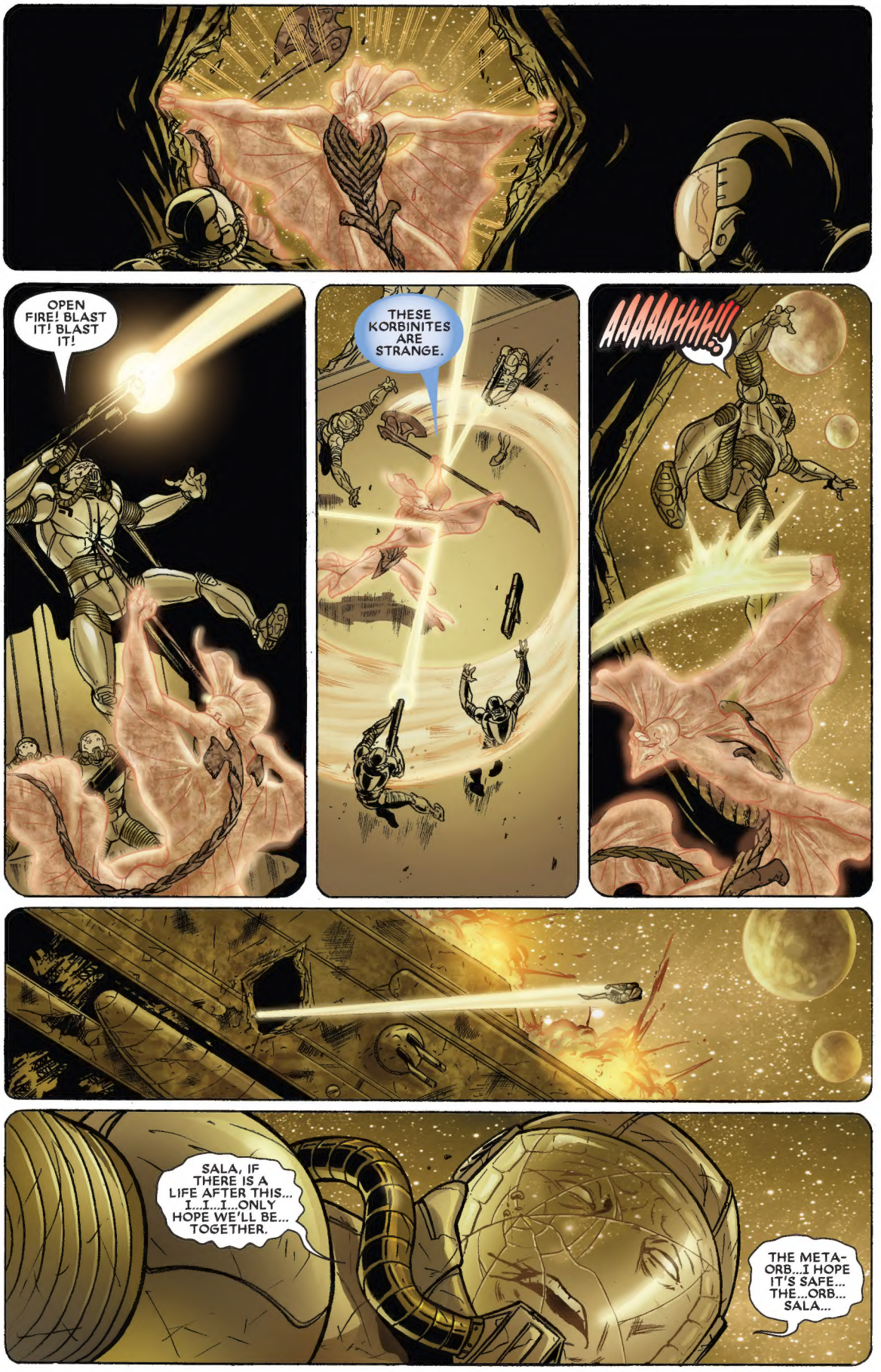
MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
5 OF 6
STORMBREAKER
THE SAGA OF BETA RAY BILL
OEMING
BERMAN
DiVITO
VILLARI
DiVITO '05
VILLARI

DAYS EARLIER...
CLOSE THAT DOOR. THIS ROOM HAS EXTRA ARMOR... COME ON, GET IN HERE AND GRAB A WEAPON.
YES, SIR.
KATHA-THOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
ONE OF THE BULKHEADS BLEW... WE'LL BE OKAY IN HERE.
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE...
CALM DOWN! WE WILL DO OUR DUTY!!
HOURS LATER.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WITH COMMUNICATIONS OUT, WE HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY SOUNDS OF BATTLE FOR QUITE A WHILE...
MAYBE IT'S OVER...
BOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
I THINK... IT WAS A GRAPPLING HOOK...


OPEN FIRE! BLAST IT! BLAST IT!
THESE KORBINITES ARE STRANGE.
AAAAAHHH!!
SALA, IF THERE IS A LIFE AFTER THIS... I...I...I...ONLY HOPE WE'LL BE... TOGETHER.
THE META-ORB...I HOPE IT'S SAFE... THE...ORB... SALA...

OBSERVE THE KORBINITE ALPHA RAY, A PROTOTYPE, A CONSTRUCT, AN EMPTY SHELL...UNLIKE BETA RAY BILL, HE IS A MINDLESS AUTOMATON, LITTLE MORE THAN A SOPHISTICATED ROBOT. THAT IS--UNTIL RECENTLY.
GALACTUS, HIS NEWFOUND BENEFACTOR, HAS REVIVED HIM FOR ONE FINAL MISSION...
"BREATHE DEEP, THING OF THE KORBINITES. YOU ARE MINE NOW...AND I NEED YOU FOR A TASK..."
IT IS HOPELESS. WE HAVE LOST. I HAVE DESTROYED US...MY ARROGANCE... HAS DESTROYED US ALL!
NO! I WILL NOT GIVE UP! I WILL NOT SURRENDER! THERE IS STILL HOPE!
HAHAHAH-- TRY YOU MUST... BUT DIE YOU WILL!!
WITH THE BLESSING OF ODIN'S DIVINE POWER AND THE MEMORY OF MY OATH-BROTHER, THOR...
...I SWEAR I WILL NOT STAND ASIDE...I WILL NOT LIE DOWN AND DIE!
BY MY WILL, I WILL FIGHT!!

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AGGGHH!

PREFER TO BECOME ONE WITH ASTEROTH YOU DO? FLATTERED I AM!

OMEGA: THE END

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NO! SHE HAS FOUND THE META-ORB, BREAKING THROUGH ITS CLOAKING SHIELD! I HAD SENT A HOLOGRAPHIC DECOY TO SKUTTLEBUTT AS A DIVERSION SO I COULD KEEP IT PROTECTED!

SKUTTLEBUTT'S SACRIFICE--WAS FOR NOTHING!

STRIKE HER NOW, KORBINITE!
KRAKKADOOM!
IN EVENT HORIZON TRAP US, HOPE YOU DO?
HOW CAN SHE STAND AGAINST THE POWER OF STORMBREAKER?!
I CANNOT HOLD MUCH LONGER! IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, KORBINITE, DO IT NOW!!

WHAT?
ALPHA?
FAAAASSHSHSHS!!!!
FOOSH-BOOM!!

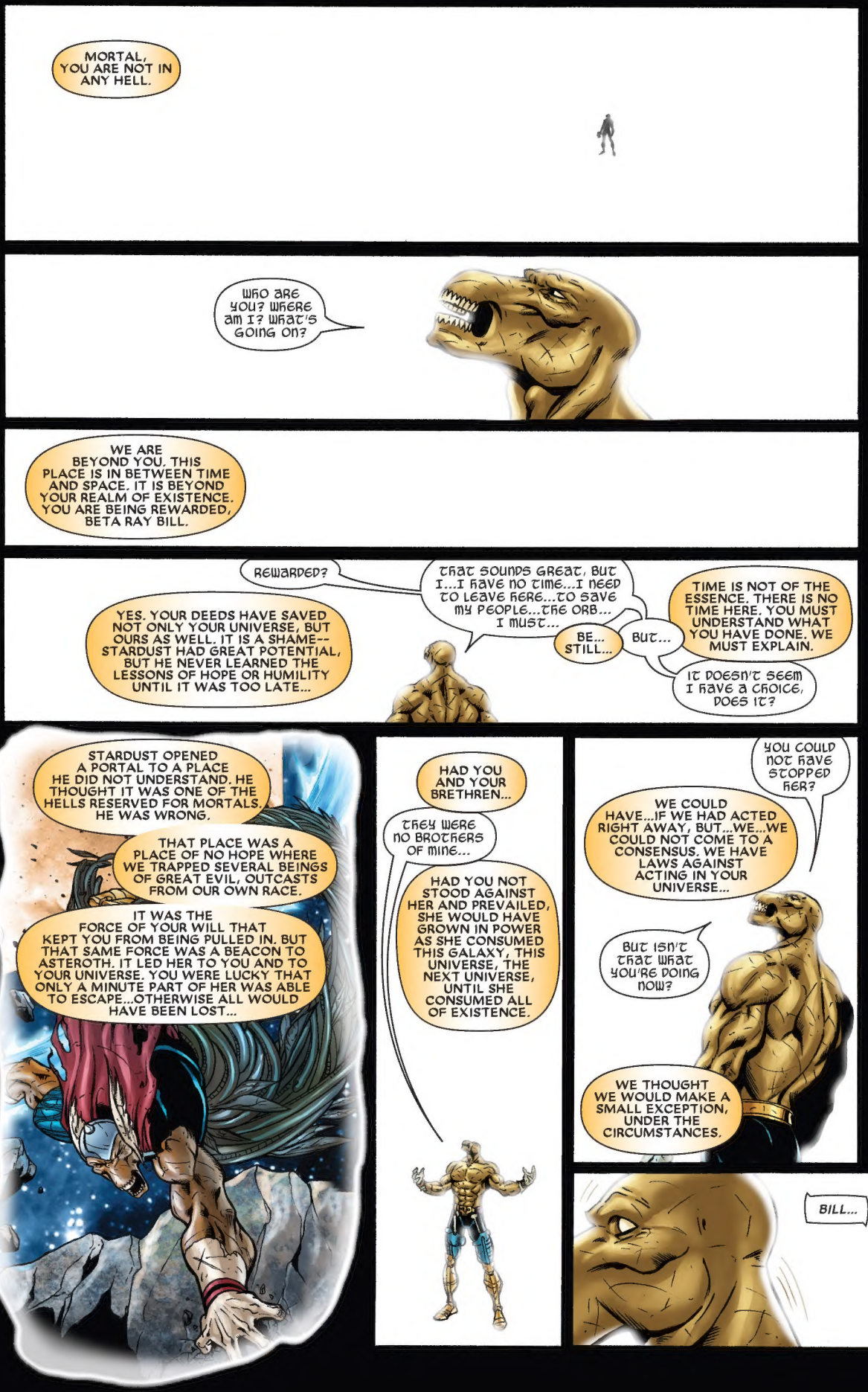
NNNOOOOOO!!

WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED? AM I DEAD?

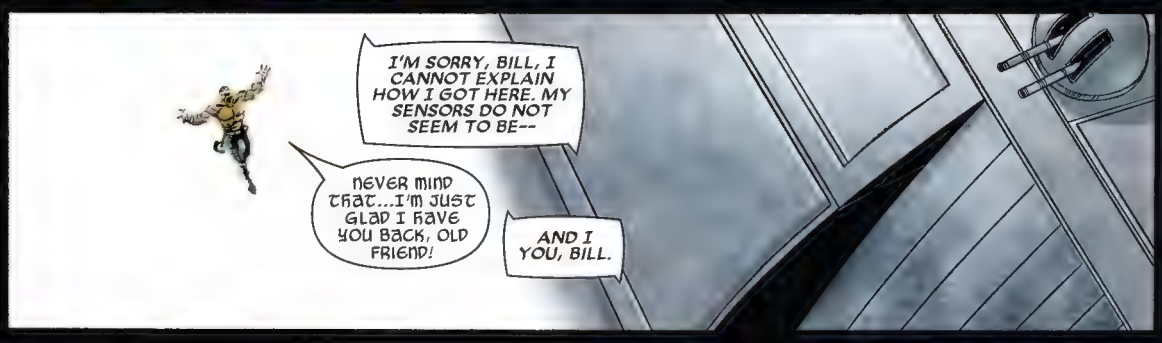
THE META-ORB...!

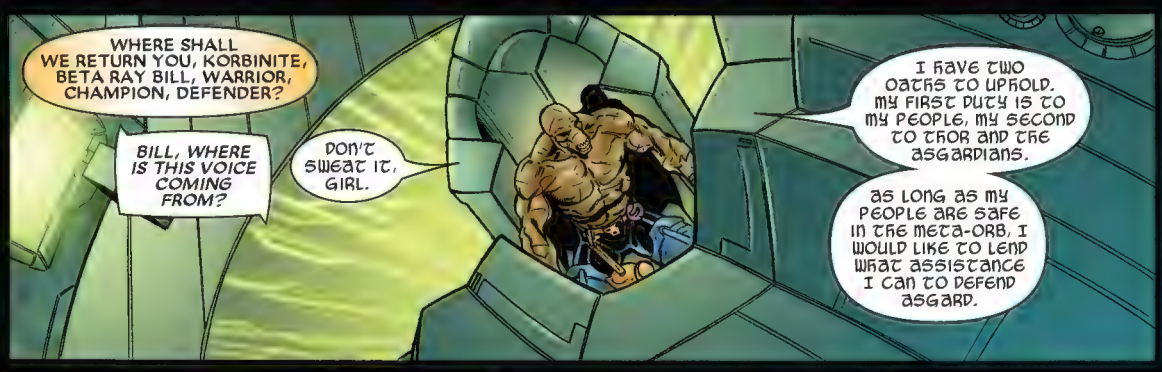
IT'S SAFE...

WHERE IN THE HELLS AM I??


MORTAL, YOU ARE NOT IN ANY HELL.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE ARE BEYOND YOU. THIS PLACE IS IN BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE. IT IS BEYOND YOUR REALM OF EXISTENCE. YOU ARE BEING REWARDED, BETA RAY BILL.
REWARDED?
YES. YOUR DEEDS HAVE SAVED NOT ONLY YOUR UNIVERSE, BUT OURS AS WELL. IT IS A SHAME-- STARDUST HAD GREAT POTENTIAL, BUT HE NEVER LEARNED THE LESSONS OF HOPE OR HUMILITY UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE...
THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT I...I HAVE NO TIME...I NEED TO LEAVE HERE...TO SAVE MY PEOPLE...THE ORB... I MUST...
BE... STILL...
BUT...
TIME IS NOT OF THE ESSENCE. THERE IS NO TIME HERE. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. WE MUST EXPLAIN.
IT DOESN'T SEEM I HAVE A CHOICE, DOES IT?
STARDUST OPENED A PORTAL TO A PLACE HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND. HE THOUGHT IT WAS ONE OF THE HELLS RESERVED FOR MORTALS. HE WAS WRONG.
THAT PLACE WAS A PLACE OF NO HOPE WHERE WE TRAPPED SEVERAL BEINGS OF GREAT EVIL, OUTCASTS FROM OUR OWN RACE.
IT WAS THE FORCE OF YOUR WILL THAT KEPT YOU FROM BEING PULLED IN. BUT THAT SAME FORCE WAS A BEACON TO ASTEROTH. IT LED HER TO YOU AND TO YOUR UNIVERSE. YOU WERE LUCKY THAT ONLY A MINUTE PART OF HER WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE...OTHERWISE ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST...
HAD YOU AND YOUR BRETHREN...
THEY WERE NO BROTHERS OF MINE...
HAD YOU NOT STOOD AGAINST HER AND PREVAILED, SHE WOULD HAVE GROWN IN POWER AS SHE CONSUMED THIS GALAXY, THIS UNIVERSE, THE NEXT UNIVERSE, UNTIL SHE CONSUMED ALL OF EXISTENCE.
YOU COULD NOT HAVE STOPPED HER?
WE COULD HAVE...IF WE HAD ACTED RIGHT AWAY, BUT...WE...WE COULD NOT COME TO A CONSENSUS. WE HAVE LAWS AGAINST ACTING IN YOUR UNIVERSE...
BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW?
WE THOUGHT WE WOULD MAKE A SMALL EXCEPTION, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
BILL...

SKUTTLEBUTT!! I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST...


I'M SORRY, BILL, I CANNOT EXPLAIN HOW I GOT HERE. MY SENSORS DO NOT SEEM TO BE--
NEVER MIND THAT...I'M JUST GLAD I HAVE YOU BACK, OLD FRIEND!
AND I YOU, BILL.

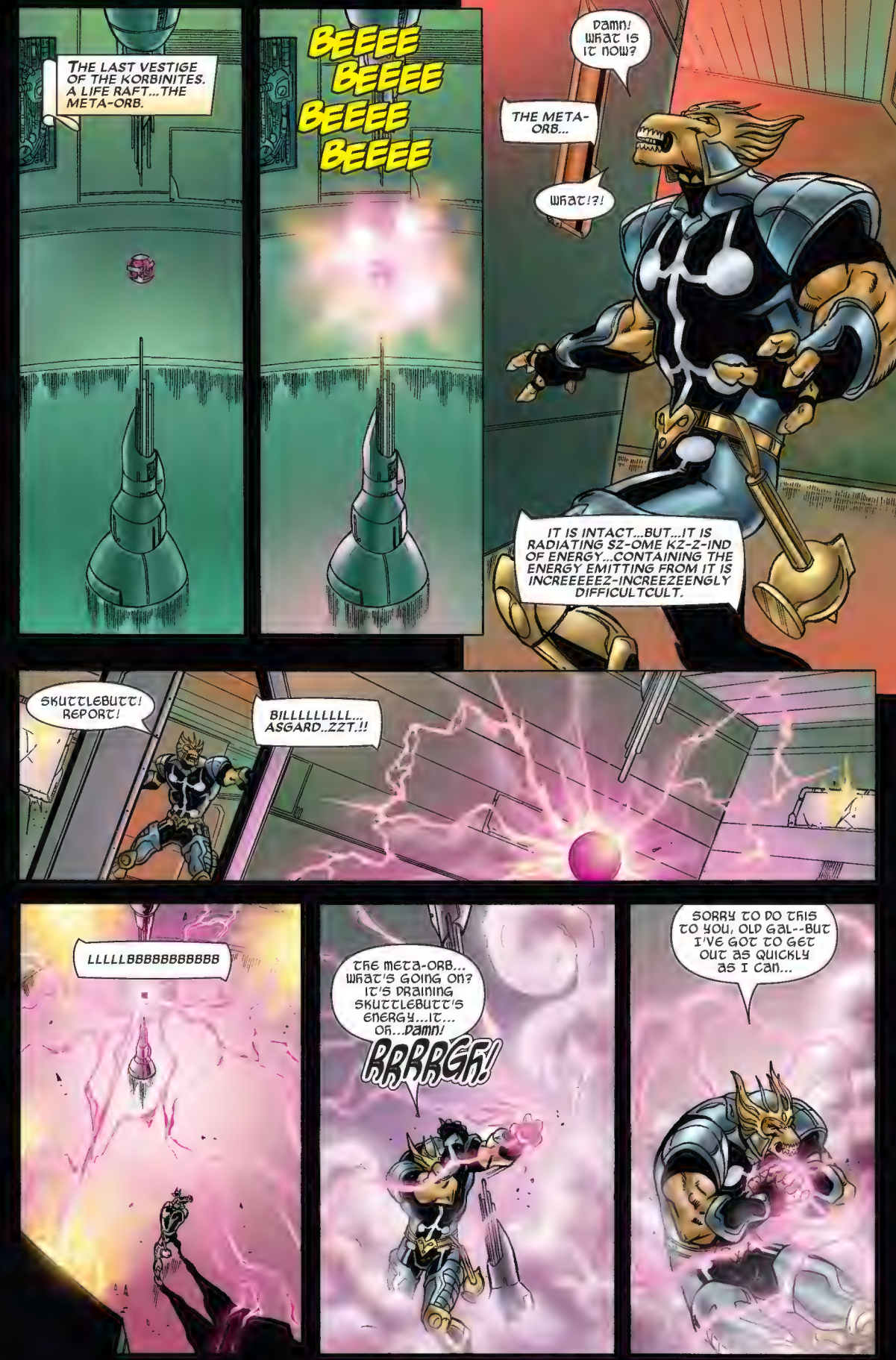

WHERE SHALL WE RETURN YOU, KORBINITE, BETA RAY BILL, WARRIOR, CHAMPION, DEFENDER?
BILL, WHERE IS THIS VOICE COMING FROM?
DON'T SWEAT IT, GIRL.
I HAVE TWO OATHS TO UPHOLD. MY FIRST DUTY IS TO MY PEOPLE, MY SECOND TO THOR AND THE ASGARDIANS.
AS LONG AS MY PEOPLE ARE SAFE IN THE META-ORB, I WOULD LIKE TO LEND WHAT ASSISTANCE I CAN TO DEFEND ASGARD.

ONCE ASGARD IS SAFE, I WILL ASK THOR FOR A SPOT OF LAND IN HIS DOMAIN. A PLACE WHERE I CAN SET TO THE TASK OF RESTORING MY PEOPLE.

TO ASGARD, SO BE IT.

OH, AND, UH, THANKS...

SKUTTLEBUTT, ARE WE OUT OF RANGE OF THOSE BEINGS?
NOTHING ON SENSORS, BUT MY READINGS DIDN'T SHOW ANYTHING WHILE WE WERE IN THAT PLACE, SO...
GOOD ENOUGH. I HAVE TO SAY... THAT WAS UNSETTLING. BEINGS WITH POWERS SUCH AS THOSE...I DON'T KNOW....I'M JUST NOT SURE WE CAN TRUST THEM.
THIS IS ALL I'VE EVER WANTED-- TO BE WITH MY PEOPLE AGAIN. TO HEAR THE GENTLE LAUGHTER, TO FEEL THE WARMTH OF THEIR TOUCH, TO SMELL THE SCENTS OF THE CITY, AND TO REVEL IN THE LILTING SONG OF MANY VOICES.
I HAVE SEEN SO MUCH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. I HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THERE ARE THINGS BEYOND MY ABILITIES. I MUST DO WHAT I CAN, WITHOUT REGRET.
REGRET IS THE SHORT PATH TO DEFEAT. MOURNING MUST BE TEMPORARY. I MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER, BUT I CANNOT DWELL IN THE PAST. I MUST MOVE ON.
NO AMOUNT OF SORROW WOULD BE ENOUGH...FOR WHAT I'VE SEEN...FOR WHAT I'VE LOST. I SHALL END MY MOURNING NOW. I WILL REMAIN STRONG.
HOLO OFF.


THE LAST VESTIGE OF THE KORBINITES. A LIFE RAFT...THE META-ORB.
BEEEE BEEEE BEEEE BEEEE
DAMN! WHAT IS IT NOW?
THE META-ORB...
WHAT!?!
IT IS INTACT...BUT...IT IS RADIATING SZ-OME KZ-Z-IND OF ENERGY...CONTAINING THE ENERGY EMITTING FROM IT IS INCREEEEEZ-INCREEZEENGLY DIFFICULTCULT.
SKUTTLEBUTT! REPORT!
BILLLLLLLLL... ASGARD..ZZT.!!
LLLLLBBBBBBBBBB
THE META-ORB... WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S DRAINING SKUTTLEBUTT'S ENERGY...IT... OH...DAMN!
RRRRGH!
SORRY TO DO THIS TO YOU, OLD GAL--BUT I'VE GOT TO GET OUT AS QUICKLY AS I CAN...

...and I have to get the meta-orb away from you. I'll need your help to repair it...if...it's not too late for both of you, that is!
aagh! it's too much...I can't hold it--but I must--we are almost there... I...must...hold...
KATHOOM!
aaaaggh!!
a-asgard! I made it!

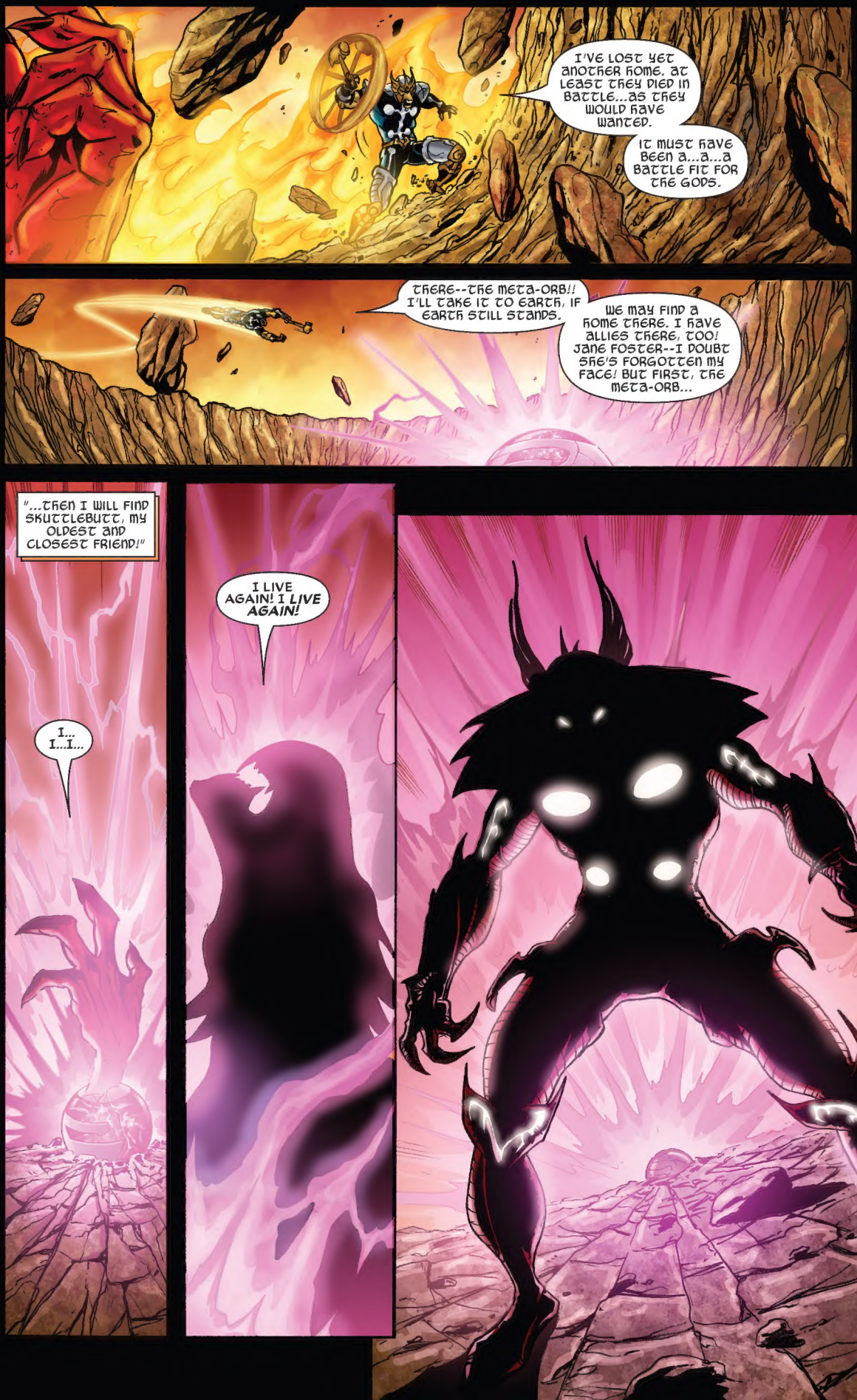
ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS, OF THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER, AND ODIN THE ALL-FATHER, LIES IN RUINS.

THE TWILIGHT OF THE NORSE GODS, RAGNAROK, HAS COME AND GONE.

THE GODS WHO ONCE RULED THESE LANDS HAVE MET THEIR END. THE SKY HAS FALLEN, THE OCEANS HAVE BOILED, AND THE MOUNTAINS HAVE CRUMBLED.

THEIR CYCLE IS OVER.

THE ORB! I'VE LOST IT! BY THE GODS... I MUST...BUT... WHERE...?
THUNDER GOD! THOR! BROTHER-IN-ARMS! HEED THE CALL OF BETA RAY BILL!
SIF! VOLSTAGG! BROTHERS!
ODIN'S EYE...
...ASGARD HAS FALLEN.
SURTUR! HE IS VICTORIOUS!!!!
THOOM!
TRAKKA-DOOM!


I'VE LOST YET ANOTHER HOME. AT LEAST THEY DIED IN BATTLE...AS THEY WOULD HAVE WANTED.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A...A...A BATTLE FIT FOR THE GODS.
THERE--THE META-ORB!! I'LL TAKE IT TO EARTH, IF EARTH STILL STANDS.
WE MAY FIND A HOME THERE. I HAVE ALLIES THERE, TOO! JANE FOSTER--I DOUBT SHE'S FORGOTTEN MY FACE! BUT FIRST, THE META-ORB...
"...THEN I WILL FIND SKUTTLEBUTT, MY OLDEST AND CLOSEST FRIEND!"
I... I...I...
I LIVE AGAIN! I *LIVE AGAIN!*

HAIL, KORBINITE!! WHO ARE YOU?
THE ORB IS RELEASING YOU?! YOU ARE LIKE ME... ARE YOU...A...A... SAFETY FEATURE... A BACKUP?
SSSHHHH! YOU KNOW NOTHING!
UNGH...WH... WHAT...?
YOU STUPID, IGNORANT, UGLY BEAST! I WAS ONCE A GOD!! A GOD! MORE THAN A GOD... I WAS A COSMIC FORCE! I WAS CHAOS PERSONIFIED!!!
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS...
A... ASTEROTH...
YES...YOU NEARLY DESTROYED ME... BUT I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE...
"I FOUND YOUR LIFEBOAT...YOUR META-ORB. I USED IT AS MY OWN LIFEBOAT. I SENT MY ESSENCE INTO IT BEFORE MY BODY WAS CRUSHED BY THAT BLACK HOLE.
"THE ORB CONTAINED A RICH FEEDING GROUND. I WAS TO REGAIN MY STRENGTH BY FEEDING ON YOUR PEOPLE..."
NNNNNRR...
NAAAAAAGH!!!

NOOOO!!!
AGGH!
I AM NO LONGER A MIGHTY BEING OF THE COSMOS. BUT SURELY, I AM YOUR EQUAL, BETA RAY BILL! I HAVE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED IN THE ORB ITSELF. I KNOW HOW YOU WERE CREATED... I HAVE THE MEMORIES OF ALL WHOM I CONSUMED. TO DESTROY ME IS TO DESTROY THEM...
...BROTHER!!!
DIIEE!!
CRAKTHAM!!
YOU DARE CALL ME BROTHER??? YOU?? I WILL RIP OUT YOUR SOUL AND FEED IT TO YOU!!!
GAHK!

STORMBREAKER!

FORGED BY THE GREATEST OF DWARVEN SMITHS AND BLESSED BY ODIN, I CALL ON ALL YOUR POWERS!

I CALL UPON THE RAIN, I CALL UPON THE LIGHTNING AND I CALL UPON THE THUNDER!

I CALL UPON THEE TO SMITE THIS EVIL THING THAT WOULD DESTROY US ALL!!!

KRACKA-THOOM!

FEEL THE WRATH OF STORMBREAKER! AS THE CHAMPION OF THE KORBINITES I VOW!! THIS TIME YOU'LL STAY DEAD!!!

DIE!!

FSHOOOM!!

DIE!!!

FSHOOOM!!

TO BE CONTINUED...